

Application. No. 09/853,487

Reply to Office action of April 8, 2004

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, the Examiner rejected independent claims 281, 323, and 357 and many claims dependent thereon under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawano et al (6,544,126) in view of Miyamoto et al (6,626,760), further in view of Fujioka et al (6,527,637), and further in view of Fujimoto et al (6,238,291).

Applicant has cancelled independent claims 281, 323, and 357 without disclaimer.

Claim Objections to informal spelling

In the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, the Examiner objected to the word "manipulatable". New claims substitute the phrase "manually operated".

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, the Examiner stated that "claims 287–294, 306, and 327–335 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

As suggested by the Examiner, applicant herewith submits amended claims 287, 306, and 327 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims 281 and 323 and any intervening claims, as marked-up on pages 3, 4, and 5 of this paper. The rewritten claims have been canceled and renumbered as new claims 375, 416, and 430, so that dependent claims are not out of logical sequence.

In addition, new independent claim 494 differs from rewritten claim 287 as to which processor detects a predetermined condition. In claim 287 the first processor detects the predetermined condition. In claim 494 the second processor detects the predetermined condition. Either processor can detect the predetermined condition and transmit control data to the other processor to cause execution of program instructions if the predetermined condition is detected. This is most clearly defined in two similar but different independent claims 287 (now 375) and 494.

Rewritten claim 287 (renumbered 375) combines dependent claim 287 with base claim 281 as marked-up on page 3 of this paper.

Rewritten claim 306 (renumbered 416) combines dependent claim 306 with base claim 281 as marked-up on page 4 of this paper.

Rewritten claim 327 (renumbered 430) combines dependent claim 327 with base claim 323 as marked-up on page 5 of this paper.

Clean copies of these rewritten, renumbered claims 375, 416, and 430 and new claim 494 and claims dependent thereon are provided in the Listing of Claims as follows:

Renumbered claim 375 is on page 1 of the Listing of Claims.

Renumbered claim 416 is on page 9 of the Listing of Claims.

Renumbered claim 430 is on page 12 of the Listing of Claims.

New claim 494 is on page 24 of the Listing of Claims.

Applicant submits that the present pending claims are allowable and a favorable decision is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey T. Haley', written in a cursive style.

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